

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 129

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Paul A. "Smokey"
Phillips of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of our friend and former colleague, Paul A. "Smokey" Phillips, who served five consecutive terms from 1943 to 1953 in the Tennessee General Assembly as a Representative for the Fifth district; and

WHEREAS, Smokey Phillips was an exemplary and conscientious public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips served with much acumen and great enthusiasm for many years in the railroad industry, earning the respect of his colleagues for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, born July 14, 1908, in Monterey, Smokey Phillips was the son of Chester and Mollie Phillips; following in the footsteps of his father, Mr. Phillips began his career as a fireman on the railroad. In 1932, he was promoted to the position of Engineer, which earned him the nickname "Smokey"; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from the Tennessee Central Railroad, Smokey Phillips lent his expertise to the State of Tennessee Railroad Legislative Board; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious tenure as a member of the Tennessee General Assembly, Representative Phillips supported and guided to passage many laws aimed at improving the quality of life for the working class people of Tennessee; Representative Phillips was an instrumental figure in the enactment of legislation that codified the "Prevailing Wage

Law," guaranteed vacation time for state employees, removed sales tax from prescription medication, extended Interstate 40 through Knoxville, and developed Ellington Parkway; and

WHEREAS, Representative Phillips also played a crucial role in bringing the Ford Glass Plant to Nashville and building the Bill Wilkerson Speech Clinic, and he was a stalwart supporter of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, after the conclusion of his career as a State Representative, Smokey Phillips further served his fellow Tennesseans as the Commissioner of Labor in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips and his late wife, Evelyn, were founding members of the Madison First Christian Church, where he served as a Deacon, Elder, and member of the choir; Mr. and Mrs. Phillips also served as members of the Christian Cooperative Ministry program; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips was honored as a 32nd Degree Mason for the East Chapter of the Scottish Rite Masonic Lodge, which he served for many years; and

WHEREAS, Smokey Phillips was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; for sixty-eight years, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Evelyn, who died in May of 1998; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips will be deeply missed by his daughter, Judy H. Roberts, granddaughter, Julie Brackenbury, and great-grandson, Ethan Wayne Brackenbury; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Phillips was preceded in death by his sister, Maude Miliron, and brother, Donald Phillips; and

WHEREAS, Smokey Phillips was a warm and affable man whose unmatched record in public service stands as a monument to a life well lived; and

WHEREAS, Paul A. "Smokey" Phillips leaved behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of former Representative Paul A. "Smokey" Phillips, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as a legislator, public servant, and human being and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Phillips.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.